

Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Fall 2005 Vol. 48, No. 4

Turtle Bay at Center of Skyscape Changes

BY BRUCE A. SILBERBLATT

With massive projects on the way for the East River waterfront to our south and widespread changes within Turtle Bay itself, this neighborhood will be “front and center” in the New York development scene for at least the next decade.

Turtle Bay has always been a gateway. To the west rise the towers of midtown offices, hotels and shops. To the east the river promises escape to quieter fields beyond. To the north is the densely built Sutton area. And to the south, beyond the United Nations, is the Con Edison Waterside site – vacant now, but not to remain so for long. Now builders are moving into Turtle Bay where for many years none had ventured, replacing the old with the new.

On First Avenue, we have the just-completed Beekman duo – the 28-story Grand and the 22-story Regency. At Second Avenue at 53rd Street, “ThreeTen” has topped out at 31 floors, its condominiums

starting at \$2.2 million. The former Box Tree brownstones on 49th Street have been razed, to be replaced by a 20-story tower. New projects are planned on Second Avenue across from ThreeTen and between 50th and 51st Streets. So intense is the push that even mid-block townhouses are being modified: 343-349 East 50th Street is literally raising its four-story-high roof with two new tiers of apartments. Further south, the Anti-Defamation League building at 46th and First Avenue has been sold to make way for an apartment building. In this case, zoning could allow a very tall structure, although not as high as Trump World Tower to its north.

Why now, and why not before?

Simply put, it is a matter of zoning and real estate forces. Zoning bars midtown offices from pushing east out of their present bounds, and residential zoning changes made some 20 years ago have kept much

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Facing northwest from 49th and First, Turtle Bay appears as a valley amidst towers. But that is changing as developers move in. At far right, note “ThreeTen” construction and crane; at bottom right, two floors being added to townhouses.

Children’s Festival Joins Oktoberfest Fun

Hundreds of Turtle Bay kids joined their elders this year at Oktoberfest, for a day filled with pumpkin painting, magic acts, games,

chocolate dipping – and, of course, the traditional beer and bratwurst. Held at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on a near-perfect day in early October, the event was one of the liveliest neighborhood affairs that most residents can remember.

It was the first time children’s activities were added to the Oktoberfest event, which has been sponsored by the Turtle Bay Association and Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza for the past several years.

“It was great to see so many neighbors of all ages having such a good time together,” said Tom Payne, TBA Board member who was instrumental in organizing the event, along with fellow-TBA Board member Michael Resnick and Jennifer Bancroft.

In addition to TBA and Friends, the event’s funding came from the Haley Foundation, Greenacre Foundation and the Family School, in cooperation with the Patio Café, Chocolat Bla Bla and Turtle Mountain. For more on the event, see page 4.



Pumpkin-painting has its downside! Little Turtle Bay neighbor Julia Bracci discovered that creating a colorful pumpkin isn’t as trouble-free as it might seem. Julia was one of hundreds of neighborhood children who took part in this year’s Oktoberfest.

Mark Your Calendar

- **Tuesday, Nov. 15**
TBA Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Grey Advertising, 3rd floor
777 Third Avenue at 48th Street
Refreshments after meeting
212-751-5465
- **Sunday, Dec. 4**
Fundraiser for Friends of
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
The World Bar, 3-5 p.m.
845 First Avenue at 48th Street
212-969-8820
- **Sunday, Dec. 11**
TBA Holiday Toy Drive and Party
Watch your mail for details
212-751-5465
- **Thursday, Dec. 15**
Holiday Fest and Tree Lighting
6-7:30 p.m.
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
212-751-5465; 212-969-8820
- **Last Tuesday every month**
17th Precinct Community Council
Open Meeting, 6 p.m.
Sutton Place Synagogue
225 East 51st Street
212-826-3228
(No meetings July, August,
December)
- **Second Wednesday every month**
Community Board 6
Full Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
NYU Medical Center
212-319-3750

TBA Contacts:

Phone: 212-751-5465

Fax: 212-751-4941

E-mail: tbaoffice@mindspring.com

Web Site: www.turtlebay-nyc.org

Check our Bulletin Board:

East side of Second Avenue,
between 48th and 49th Streets,
on outside wall of the supermarket.

With this issue, we're calling our publication the "Turtle Bay News," instead of "Newsletter." We hope the change reflects the fact that we bring readers useful information and stories they won't find elsewhere – in other words, real "news." If you have a story idea for us, please call or e-mail the TBA office.

Neighbors: Speak Out on Noise

If you, like so many residents of the neighborhood, are concerned about the noisy bars along Second Avenue and adjacent streets, make yourself heard by calling 311, the City's Citizen Service Hotline. Simply complaining to your friends and neighbors does no good. But the impact of numerous voices speaking out can get results.

Since the 311 service was set up in 2003, noise has been by far the number one complaint. And the City does pay attention. If the complaint involves loitering, smoking ban violations or civil disturbance, the police are sent to the location. If the complaint involves loud noise coming from within the bar itself, the Department of Environmental Protection will also be sent to inspect the facility and measure the noise level.

So help our neighborhood by reporting noise disturbances. When you call 311, be sure to give the operator the specific establishment or general location of noise, and a brief description of the noise issue (such as whether it is coming from within the establishment or on the sidewalk out front).

And remember, you can use the 311 number to report other non-emergency issues as well, such as potholes, broken street lights and blocked driveways.

By Walt McGovern



Preparing New Yorkers

With hurricane and evacuation preparedness high on everyone's agenda, Turtle Bay residents may want to get a copy of the New York City Office of Emergency Management's "Ready New York" citizen's guide, which outlines the City's preparedness and evacuation plans.

Published in 2003, the brochure includes an evacuation zone map showing that Turtle Bay is in an area of lowest risk within the City, which is defined as being "an area at risk of a storm surge inundation in the case of a major hurricane," and which the OEM says is "unlikely, but not impossible."

The guide outlines how OEM will keep New Yorkers informed in the case of a major storm, and points out that if an evacuation were necessary, evacuees who don't have any place to stay – such as with family and friends outside the area – would be directed to a local reception center from

which transportation to a shelter would be provided. Turtle Bay's reception center is located at Hunter College.

"Ready New York" is available online at www.nycgov/oem or may be obtained by calling 311.

Katrina 'Close to Home'

Turtle Bay's Smith & Wollensky's sister restaurant in the heart of New Orleans was badly flooded during Hurricane Katrina, and most of its 67 employees forced to evacuate and now scattered around the country. The restaurant continued to pay employees after the hurricane, and is helping them find positions at other Smith & Wollensky restaurants (the group has 16 restaurants throughout the U.S.). The group also set up a fund to help evacuees.

Meanwhile, its Houston restaurant was closed for four days in the wake of Hurricane Rita, and its Miami outlet closed for two days when Katrina skirted the Florida coast.

Turtle Bay Music School Celebrates 80th

BY RITA ROWAN

The neighborhood's center of musical training, Turtle Bay Music School, officially marks its 80th anniversary this November. But the school is spending little time looking back at its history, and instead has some bold new plans for the future, with a new executive director, new strategic focus, updates to its 145-year-old building and even a re-designed logo to reflect its forwarding-looking approach.



Executive Director Jennifer Sherwood

"We've got a great history, strong faculty and fine reputation," says Jennifer Sherwood, who was named executive director on September 1. "Now we want to broaden our offerings, with a more innovative curriculum and updated facilities."

The school was founded in 1925 when the music program at a nearby settlement house was discontinued, leaving 15 students with nowhere to study their art. A group of community leaders responded to parents' pleas and opened TBMS. Within the first year, the original 15 students had grown to 50. Today, some 600 pupils of all ages attend the school each semester.

The school's curriculum is diverse, with training in piano, voice and string instruments making up the majority of courses. Most are offered as private, partner or group lessons. Among the courses are jazz, cabaret, the Orff Schulwerk and Suzuki methods of teaching music to young children, music history for adults and music theory for children. The school also offers a professionally oriented Certificate Program.

Located at 244 East 52nd Street in a brownstone that dates back to the 1860s, the school is currently undergoing some badly needed



Patti Onorato teaches a class in the Orff Schulwerk approach to children's musical training.



The school's familiar brownstone is being updated.

renovation. Most significant is the refurbishment of the 175-seat concert hall, which will be formally unveiled at the school's 80th anniversary concert on November 16. (See "Turtle Bay Happenings," page 8.) Previously the Alma Gluck Hall, the room is being renamed the Em Lee Concert Hall, for a long-time supporter and former Board president.

A non-profit organization, the school's financial backing comes mainly from tuition. But grants and donations are used to support its long-standing commitment to community outreach. "This school was founded on the ideals of helping the community," says Ms. Sherwood, "and we'll continue to reach out to bring the joy of music to New Yorkers from all walks of life."



Instructor Pam Frank enthusiastically directs a violin student.

Currently, the school's outreach work includes teaching music at four New York City schools, including nearby P.S. 59; music therapy to children in foster care homes; and private instrument training for underprivileged children.

TBMS also serves as a good neighbor to its own Turtle Bay community, with an ongoing program of concerts and recitals that are open to the public. For information, call the school at 212-753-8811, or visit www.tbms.org. The current catalogue is available online or at the school's front office.

Pocket Park Update

The management of Dag Hammarskjold Towers reports that the building's pocket park on the corner of Second Avenue and 46th Street is undergoing repairs and will reopen to the public next spring. The little park has been closed for two years, awaiting repairs to fix a water seepage problem. Neighbors have complained about its closure, and the repairs were initiated after communications from the Turtle Bay Association both to the building's owners and managing agent, as well as the City Department of Buildings.

Police, Firefighters Temporarily Move

During renovations to the 17th Precinct station house at 167 East 51st Street and Engine Company 8 Ladder Company 2 firehouse next door, police and firefighters are being temporarily relocated. Police will be housed in two trailers out front, with some of the command in temporary offices in the building. The trailers will serve as the public's access point.

Firefighters' facilities will be split between the East 40th and East 69th Street firehouses. Both police and firefighters will move

back to their updated quarters on 51st Street in the spring. During renovations, phone contacts remain unchanged.

TBA Annual Meeting

TBA members are encouraged to attend this year's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, November 15. Join President Bill Curtis and TBA directors for an update on community matters, committee reports and election of the Board of Directors. Meeting site is Grey Advertising, third floor, 777 Third Avenue at 48th Street.

Young and Old Enjoy Oktoberfest Together

There was something for everyone at Turtle Bay's Oktoberfest and Children's Festival. Pumpkin painting was a huge hit. With a heap of "clean-slate" pumpkins to chose from, the kids were given all the tools to create their masterpieces – paints, decorations, vegetables and plenty of toothpicks to hold the stuff on!

If pumpkin painting wasn't their thing, then an expert face painter was on hand to transform kids into their favorite character. And in between times, a strolling magician, balloonist and plenty of games kept everyone engrossed. There was an inflatable jumping castle, free ice cream, bratwurst and beer for mom and dad, and – the *pièce de résistance* – a chocolate fountain, where kids and adults alike dipped fruit, pretzels, cookies and cake. (Related story, page 1)



Of Note...

Greenmarket Expands. The Greenmarket at the west end of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza has added two new markets. Pura Vida, a fish market, is docked out of Hampton Bays and carries a wide variety of fish, including shellfish. The other new market, Dines Farms, sells poultry and meats, all free-range and grown with no hormones. Both vendors will stay open year round. The Greenmarket is open every Wednesday.

She's Back. Nicole Kidman, who starred in the movie "The Interpreter" and spent several weeks in Turtle Bay during its filming last year, was back in the neighborhood recently, this time working on "Fur," a movie in which she plays the role of the photographer Dianne Arbus. The 1950s scenes were filmed on streets in the East

50s, as well as locations all over the City. The movie is to open next year.

Fall Plantings. For the first time this year, the Turtle Bay Tree Fund is planting some of the neighborhood's tree beds on side streets with fall flora – chrysanthemums, pansies and decorative cabbage. At the same time, daffodil and tulip bulbs are being planted in the tree beds for flowering next spring. For information on the Tree Fund, write to 208 East 51st Street, Apt. 238, New York, NY 10022.

Talk about a Switch! For years, the corporate staff of Turtle Bay-based A&E Television Networks (AETN) joined their colleagues from the Stamford, Connecticut office for a summer outing in Westchester County's countryside. But this past summer,

the Stamford staff came here to Turtle Bay where AETN hosted the first-ever corporate summer outing at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. AETN says the 400 employees so enjoyed the city location that it's already planning a "repeat" for next year.

Norwegian Holiday Gifts. The Norwegian Seaman's Church at 317 East 52nd Street, will hold its annual fundraising bazaar November 18-20, with hand-crafted home accessories and gifts from Norway. Among the items are typical Norwegian holiday decorations, hand-knit sweaters and jewelry. Hours: 12-8 p.m.

Volunteer Tutors Needed. The High School of Art & Design needs volunteer tutors, particularly in mathematics. Call Allan Levy at 212-688-1422.

Skyscape continued from page 1

of Turtle Bay from an invasion of 40- and 50-story condominiums. While Sutton zoning was, and still is, maximum density, in the early 1980s the TBA took the lead in downzoning both the Beekman Place district (which was threatened by not one but two 40-story towers!) and the midblocks between First and Second Avenues from 49th to 53rd Streets and between Second and Third Avenues, 48th to 53rd. These changes, plus borough-wide restrictions on wide residential streets, made it impractical for developers to produce any more out-of-scale towers. Trump World Tower could be built with its unprecedented air rights transfers because it was in a *commercial* zone. That was the same case with 100 U.N. Plaza. Neither could have been built in residential zones further north. Thus limited, real estate operators turned elsewhere. The then-existing market simply did not support costly condominiums in relatively smaller buildings in Turtle Bay.

But in the past few years, market dynamics have changed dramatically. Today builders can command hyper-expensive prices never dreamed of a decade ago. And so a new building in Turtle Bay can rise only 22-30 stories and still be financially feasible. Today, much of Second Avenue and parts of First are in play, along with the riverfront to the south.

There, U.N. plans for an office tower in

Robert Moses Park are, for now, stymied. Beyond that spreads the Con Edison Waterside site, where zoning must be negotiated from manufacturing before developer Sheldon Solow, who has purchased the site, can build a project that will have unprecedented density, which the community is fighting.

Solow wants a huge office tower (a first-time commercial thrust into the Midtown East River shore), over 2,000 apartments, below-ground garages, shops and greenery. Four of the Solow megaliths would be as tall as – if not taller than – Trump World Tower. And because the Waterside plans are not coordinated with other neighboring projects – such as expected FDR Drive reconstruction and U.N. plans – many say there is the potential for a planning fiasco.

How will this affect Turtle Bay? Certainly, streets will be further burdened;

neighbor Tudor City overwhelmed; the neighborhood's few parks will be even more overstressed; and the red-hot real estate market may find itself glutted and cool down.

Change, for better or worse, is inevitable. The mission of the TBA is to make certain that we preserve, to the best of our ability, the quality of life in our community and conserve it as an exceptional place in which to live and work.



At the annual "Night Out Against Crime" event held in early August at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (center) presented a "Congressional Certificate of Recognition" to TBA Vice President Millie Margiotta (left), Community Affairs Director of the 17th Precinct Detective Frank Bogucki (second from right) and Jay Litwin, President of the 17th Precinct Community Council (far right). Captain John J. Wallace (second from left), 17th Precinct commanding officer, hosted the event, held annually to heighten public awareness of the potential for crime and how to prevent it.

TBA Board at Work

The following is a summary of issues and activities addressed at recent TBA Board meetings, as reflected in the meeting minutes. The TBA:

- is working, with Community Board 6 and as part of the East Midtown Coalition for Sensible Development, on two issues of critical importance to the neighborhood: ensuring that Moses Playground is not ceded to the United Nations without an equivalent park site being designated in its place, and monitoring ongoing plans for the development of the Con Ed Waterside site.
- has joined other interests in opposing the MTA's planned utility building on East 50th Street.
- has voted to oppose a plan for a light-rail system on 42nd Street, a proposal that would add significant vehicular traffic to Turtle Bay streets.
- worked to ensure re-opening of the pocket park at 240 East 47th Street, including communications to the City Department of Buildings and the building's owner. The park will reopen in the spring.
- produced a pocket guide insert and walking tour of Turtle Bay historical and architectural sites.
- monitors neighborhood construction sites, including 250-254 East 49th Street, for safety and other concerns.
- has sponsored or supported recent neighborhood events, including Oktoberfest, an outing to Belmont Park, "Night Out Against Crime" and the Turtle Bay Street Fair. Upcoming events include the Annual Holiday Toy Drive and Holiday Fest.
- continues its work to beautify the neighborhood through its Tree Program and support of the Turtle Bay Tree Fund, as well as support of community parks.

U.N. 'Scrambling' for Temporary Space

The new head of the United Nation's renovation project says he is "scrambling" to find temporary space where staff could be housed while the headquarters complex undergoes modernization, after the New York State legislature failed to act to allow the Moses Playground site at First Avenue and 42nd Street to be used for a new building.

While moving ahead to find new space, Assistant Secretary General Louis Frederick Reuter IV told a mid-October press conference that he still believes the plan to build on the parkland is attractive and should be revived. He says the United Nations

Water Tunnel Update

After considering 18 other sites, including two in Turtle Bay, the Department of Environmental Protection now says its preferred site for drilling a shaft of the city's third water tunnel is city-owned land at the northwest corner of First Avenue and 59th Street.

After a pilot hole is drilled from above, the shaft itself will be bored from below, not the street. More intrusive will be digging of a water distribution line from the shaft to a central pumping station, at Third Avenue and 54th Street. It will run down First Avenue and west on either 54th or 55th Street and will be dug from the surface. Once construction begins – after the shaft site is finally determined – work is expected to take five years.

Site Being Monitored

Some TBA members, and the TBA itself, are concerned about the way work is proceeding at 250-254 East 49th Street, site of the former Box Tree Restaurant and Inn that has been torn down to make way for a 20-story apartment building. The site's protective fence is sagging, there is trash on the sidewalk and there are questions about protection of the trees in front. The TBA is addressing these concerns with the owner, builder and appropriate City agencies. TBA members can help by calling the owner or builder (contacts are posted on the site's fence) or by calling 311 to report a hazardous situation.

Development Corporation – the agency mandated by New York State to plan and finance U.N. facilities near its headquarters – and Mayor Bloomberg are still supportive of that approach.

Meanwhile, he says the U.N. can't afford to wait for that to occur, and his team is looking at every possible alternative, including "boats, barges, islands and tents."

Headquarters renovation work is scheduled to begin in mid-2007, a date that Reuter believes is still realistic if temporary office space can be found soon. While revival of the Moses Park plan would delay the start date, he says the advantages of that approach – in which the new building would be used as temporary space during headquarters' renovation and afterward as permanent space for U.N. offices now dispersed throughout the City – makes it "seductive."

The TBA does not object to the sale of the playground to the U.N. provided an equivalent neighborhood park site is designated in its place. The U.N. General Assembly is to make a decision on plans by the end of the year.

Turtle Bay Association

President: William E. Curtis
Vice Presidents: Millie Margiotta, Dolores Marsh, Bruce Silberblatt
Treasurer: Francine Mohink
Secretary: Barbara Connolly
Directors: Jed Abrams, Ethel Bendove, Bunny Blei, Meryl Brodsky, Ralph Compagnone, Barbara Connolly, William E. Curtis, Denise Hamilton, Marie-Louise Handal, Pamela Hanlon, Olga Hoffmann, Bill Huxley, Richard Irwin, Millie Margiotta, Dolores Marsh, Patricia Q. McDougald, Francine Mohink, Tom Payne, Michael Resnick, Carol Rinzler, Jeannie Sakol, Helen Shapiro, Bruce Silberblatt

Turtle Bay News

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Cartoonist: Walt McGovern
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UNICEF CARD AND GIFT SHOP

Few neighborhoods can boast of having the flagship store of a world-renowned line of gifts and cards right in its midst. But Turtle Bay has that distinction, with the Unicef Card and Gift Shop at 3 United Nations Plaza on 44th Street.

Located on the street level of the headquarters building of Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund), the shop opened in 1988, joining a smaller branch that's located in the United Nations lower level lobby.

Probably best known for its artistic greeting cards, the shop's gift items account for more than 40 percent of sales. And over the years, the gift selection – which includes products from virtually every region of the world – has become more innovative and sophisticated. Indeed, two



Stocking for displaying holiday cards.

years ago, Unicef added a “luxury” line, to include more trend-setting gifts. With the holiday season coming up, the Unicef Gift Shop is well worth a visit.

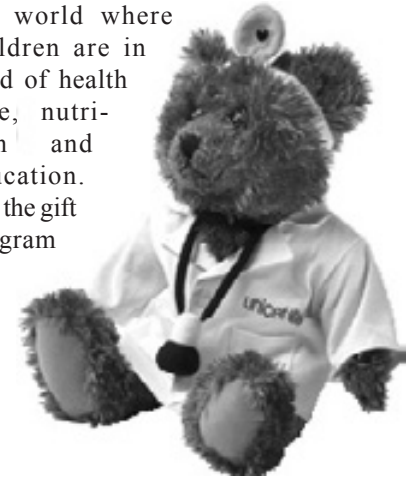
A sampling of the shop's worldly offerings includes a palm-wood candle holder from Thailand; a strand of hand-crafted doves and glass beads from India; candles from South Africa; Alpaca scarves from Peru and silk ties from Italy. In addition, there are dozens of children's gifts and books, ranging from a pop-up geography book to a new model truck introduced just this year – a Unicef Land Rover. And of course, the shop carries the full line of Unicef greeting cards.

Jolene Braga manages both the 44th Street shop and the U.N. branch. She and an assistant are helped by some 40 volunteers, many of whom are Turtle Bay residents, who share weekly four-hour shifts. Jolene is particularly grateful to the volunteers. “It is because of our hard-working volunteers that the Turtle Bay shops can make such a significant contribution to Unicef's work to help children around the world.”

Each year, a new line of Unicef cards and gifts are selected at the organization's Geneva offices, where Wendy Miller, Director

of Product Development for the U.S. Fund for Unicef, meets with her counterparts from other nations to select items to order for the two New York shops and for U.S. Fund's mail order catalogue and Web site (unicefusa.org).

Sales proceeds go to Unicef's central organization to benefit communities throughout the world where children are in need of health care, nutrition and education. But the gift program



helps in another way as well: by providing work for local craftsmen who make the products in countries throughout the world.

The card program was first introduced in 1949, inspired by a seven-year-old Czechoslovakian girl who sent a drawing to Unicef as thanks for helping her war-torn village. The first-year sales of the card, with her artwork of children dancing around a maypole, totaled 450. Today, Unicef offers some 300 card designs – by children as well as accomplished artists – and sells nearly 120 million cards annually.

And, for those of us who live and work in Turtle Bay, the biggest selection of the cards – and gifts – is right here in the center of our neighborhood.

Unicef needs volunteers to help in the gift shop. If interested, stop by or call Manager Jolene Braga at 212-326-7054.

Store hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Briefly in Business:

- **The Alamo Restaurant**, 304 East 48th Street, is back again after taking what it calls a three-year “siesta.” A new TBA business member, the Alamo serves traditional Mexican cuisine and drinks and offers TBA members a 10 percent discount when seated in the dining room. 212-759-0590
- Congratulations to **G.P. Florist** as it celebrates its 30th year in business at its Turtle Bay location at 903 Second Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets. G.P. Florist is a long-time TBA business member and offers a 15 percent discount to TBA members. 212-688-1116.
- **Dr. Mark Jacobson General Dentistry and Periodontics**, a new business member, offers TBA members who become new patients a 5 percent discount for the first year of treatment. Dr. Jacobson is located at 211 East 43rd Street. 212-697-3946.
- After the last issue of the Newsletter pointed out that **Chocolat Bla Bla Bla**, the chocolate shop at 359 East 50th Street, is nearly hidden behind a lush vine-covered entrance, a reader asked who is the shop's gardener? It's Barney Ertegovff, an artist and 40-year resident of the building next door, who also helps out in the shop and sells his paintings there.

Trygve Lie Gallery. Norwegian painter Dag Telhaug's coastal landscapes in an exhibit called "Sailing North." Through Nov. 27. Artist Jan Valentin Saether's works will be shown from Dec. 1-Jan.8. Free. Gallery hours: Mon.-Thurs. 12-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. 12-5 p.m. 317 East 52nd Street. Information: 212-319-0370; www.trygvliegallery.com.

Asian Artists at the U.N. Works from Japanese landscape painter Kaii Higashiyama and Chinese landscape photographer Wang Wusheng on display in the General Assembly Visitor's Lobby (entrance: First Avenue across from 46th Street) from Dec. 14 to Mar. 10. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Information: www.un.org.

Turtle Bay Music School. 80th Anniversary Celebratory Concert, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. Music by faculty, students, guest artists. Em Lee Concert Hall, 244 East 52nd Street. Free. Information: 212-753-8811, ext. 23; www.tbms.org.

Cervantes Institute. Piano concert in honor of Isaac Albeniz, considered Spain's best composer for piano. Miguel Baselga on the piano. Nov. 8, 6 p.m. \$15; call 212-308-7720 for reservations. 211 East 49th Street. 212-308-7720; www.cervantes.org.

Japan Society. Traditional Shamisen ensemble performs with kabuki dance, Dec. 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35, including a lecture one hour before show

time. Also, the photographic exhibit "Hiroshi Sugimoto: History to History" continues through Jan. 8. Admission \$12; \$10 seniors. For information and tickets, call 212-832-1155; www.japansociety.org.

German House. Holiday concert with Andreas Greger, cello, and Birgit Grutzner, piano, playing Beethoven, Bach and Schubert. Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. Free. 871 United Nations Plaza. Information: www.germany-info.org/newyork. 212-610-9719. Guests must register in advance. Automated RSVP line is 212-610-9759 or e-mail to german-consulate-ku@nyc.net.

Midtown Jazz at Midday. Jazz on Wednesday at 1 p.m., St. Peter's Church at Lexington Avenue and 54th Street. Admission: \$5. Information: 212-935-2200; www.saintpeters.org.

Beloved Neighbor, Singer, Dies at 99

Hildegarde, the sensational cabaret singer whose career spanned almost seven decades and who made her home in Turtle Bay for much of that time, died recently at the age of 99.



Hildegarde in her ever-glamorous prime.

To the world, she was known as "The Incomparable Hildegarde," but Turtle Bay residents fondly remember her as simply a very good neighbor.

Hildegarde actively supported the TBA from the time she moved to East 48th Street in 1963. Known for her elegant dress – including her "signature" long white gloves that reached nearly to her shoulders – Hildegarde's neighbors remember how she donated a selection of her gloves, handbags and other accessories to the Turtle Bay Fair back in the 1980s. "Word got out to serious collectors beforehand and the items were sold out within minutes," says Barbara

Connolly, TBA special events coordinator. At the peak of her popularity in the 1940s, she was booked at cabarets and supper clubs virtually every week of the year. Her recordings were worldwide hits, she appeared on the cover of Life Magazine, and Revlon even introduced a Hildegarde shade of lipstick and nail polish.

Around Turtle Bay, she was known to write handwritten notes to her neighbors, with her thoughts and thanks. TBA Board member Helen Shapiro has a note that Hildegarde wrote to her after a TBA benefit auction in which she adds at the end, "Bless you. You're wonderful."

To Hildegarde, we in the neighborhood want to say that we think *you* were wonderful. You will be fondly remembered, always.

TBA Goes to the Races

No "big-time winners" but plenty of "big-time fun." That's the way one Turtle Bay member described the TBA fall outing at Belmont Park on Sunday, September 25. It was the second year in a row that TBA chose horse racing at Belmont for its annual outing, a direct response to requests from many TBA members.

More than 50 members and guests took part, with bus transportation leaving Second Avenue and 50th Street in the late morning and returning early evening. In between, the group enjoyed a buffet lunch in the clubhouse overlooking the track, some smart (and some not-so-smart) betting at the windows, good conversation and camaraderie.

Yes, I want to join the Turtle Bay Association and help support our community's quality of life.

Annual Membership Dues

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacesetter \$250 |



Name _____
 Address _____ Apt _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
 E-mail _____

I would like to become more involved in TBA activities.

Please make your check payable to Turtle Bay Association.

Mail to: Turtle Bay Association, 224 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017